

isothermal incubation at 65°C for 15 minutes, followed by an ethanol precipitation step. Alternatively, a single-cycle thermal cycler procedure is included for primers whose <sup>TM</sup> values or structures are not suitable for reactions at 65°C.

On the average, the Ladderman Dideoxy Sequencing Core Kit produces 940 bases of data when used with LI-COR instrumentation. The kit consists of enough materials for 100 four-lane reactions, although the fluorescent primers are not included.

#### Visible Genetics, Inc.

**HLA Class I-A, B, & C Kits**

**HLA Class II-DRB1 Kit**

**TruGene™ HIV Genotyping GeneKit™**

**Core Sequencing Kit**

Visible Genetics, Inc. (VGI) develops, manufactures, and markets automated DNA sequencing systems designed to analyze genes linked to disease. The company offers fully integrated sequencing kits based on PCR and optimized for clinical DNA sequencing and analysis using its OpenGene™ automated sequencing system.

Recently, VGI announced the availability of four new DNA GeneKits designed for sequenced-based research of the A, B, and C loci of the Class I, and the DRB1 locus of the Class II, HLA genes. These genes are important genetic markers used for matching bone marrow transplant donors and recipients. These kits represent an important advance in ensuring proper matches.

VGI's TruGene HIV Genotyping GeneKit is a fluorescent primer-based kit currently being tested. This kit is designed to sequence the Protease and RT regions of the HIV genome using CLIP™, a DNA sequencing technique designed to directly sequence small amounts of amplified templates. The highly variable RT and Protease regions are important to the virus's ability to develop drug resistance. Other kits in development include tests for RB1, a gene associated with eye cancers in children; p53, a gene found in solid tumors in many cancers; and the human papilloma virus, which is believed to be responsible for cervical cancer.

Pushed onward by the continuing demands for faster and longer sequence reads, sequencing kit and instrumentation manufacturers constantly upgrade their products. Indeed, several of the marketing and product managers interviewed during the preparation of this profile mentioned that their companies are working hard at developing new polymerases and other ideas to improve automated DNA sequencing. Particularly noteworthy is the introduction of sequencing kits with specific clinical and other applications. So be on the lookout for new products as fluorescent automated DNA sequencing technology continues to improve and expand into new territories.

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